

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing units of incoming video data on an empty a storage medium comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a set of different levels of priority[[ies]] for video data of different types;
- b. establishing a set of rules at least one rule for each established priority video data type;
- c. assigning a priority level to each unit of incoming video data according to its type;
- d. storing said units of incoming video data on said storage medium until all storage locations thereon are occupied;
- e. thereafter identifying stored video data at each priority level and applying said at least one rule to each priority level to identify stored data that may be overwritten, beginning at the lowest priority level and continuing to successively higher priority levels until sufficient storage locations have been identified to store said units of incoming video data; and
- f. storing said units of incoming video data at storage locations on said medium by overwriting said identified existing stored video data at said locations, said locations being selected according to the lowest priority video data that is expendable according to any applicable rules.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the creation time of each incoming unit of video data is maintained and at least one of said rules is [[are]] based on the age of the data.

5 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one rule[[s]] includes at least one retention time for each established priority level, and existing stored video data of a given priority level is overwritten with incoming video data if the age of the existing video is outside of an [[the]] applicable the retention time.

10 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 wherein in the event that more than one stored video at a given priority level is determined to be expendable, the oldest such video is overwritten first by the incoming video.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 wherein at least one priority level calls for indefinitely maintaining video data that is assigned such priority level.

20 7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least two different priority levels are established, and each priority level has a different retention time with longer retention times assigned to higher priority levels.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 comprising the additional step of changing the priority level of stored video data units in real time in order to change the availability of the space occupied by that data on the storage medium.

5 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the types of data are selected from the group consisting of: alarm, pre-alarm, event, pre-event, archive, continuous, scheduled, user-defined, and combinations thereof.

10. 10. (Currently Amended) A method for prioritizing video data to determine which data on a storage medium will be overwritten to make way for new data comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a set of different priority[[ies]] levels for video data of different types;
- b. establishing a set of rules at least one rule for maintaining video data of a given priority level;
- c. assigning a priority level to each new data unit according to its type;
- d. if empty storage locations are available on said medium, storing units of video data in said empty storage locations;
- e. if empty storage locations are not available, ~~selecting a storage location containing video data having the lowest priority that is expendable according to the data priority and the established rules identifying stored video data at each priority level and applying~~

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said at least one rule to each priority level to identify stored data
that may be overwritten, beginning at the lowest priority level and
continuing to successively higher priority levels until sufficient
storage locations have been identified to store said units of
incoming video data; and

f. overwriting the said stored video data in said identified selected storage locations with said new video data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the priority levels
10 established priorities and at least one rule[[s]] may be changed in real time.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 10 comprising the additional step of changing the priority level of stored video data units in real time in order to change the availability of the space occupied by the associated video data on the
15 storage medium.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one rule[[s]] includes at least one retention time for each established priority level, and existing stored video data of a given priority level is overwritten with new video data if
20 the age of the existing video is outside of the applicable the retention time.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[14]] 10 wherein in the event that more than one stored video at a given priority level is determined to be expendable, the oldest such video is overwritten first by the new video.

5 16. (Currently Amended) A method for managing units of video data on a storage medium comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing a set of priority[[ies]] levels for video data of different types;
- b. establishing ~~a set of rules at least one rule~~ for maintaining video data of a given priority level;
- c. assigning a priority level to each new video data unit according to its type;
- [[c]]d. using a table to maintain at least the assigned priority level, creation date and address for any video data stored at each storage location on said medium;
- [[d]]e. if said table reflects that empty storage locations are available on said medium, storing each unit of new video data in such empty storage locations and updating the corresponding entries in said table;
- [[e]]f. if said table reflects that empty storage locations are not available on said medium, scanning said table to ~~select a storage location containing video data having the lowest priority that is expendable according to the data priority and the established rules identify~~

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existing stored video data at each priority level and applying said rules to each priority level to identify stored data that may be overwritten, beginning at the lowest priority level and continuing to successively higher priority levels until sufficient storage locations have been identified to store said units of incoming video data; and

[[f]]g. overwriting the said existing stored video data in said identified selected storage locations with said new video data and updating the corresponding entry entries in said table.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[17]] 16 wherein in the event that more than one stored video at a given priority level is determined to be expendable,
15 the oldest such video is overwritten first by the new video.